

February 2017

# Open Arms Hispanic Ministry



*Seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs  
of immigrants in Wayne and Holmes counties*

## Quinceañera Celebration

2017 marks the fifteenth anniversary of Open Arms. For our annual banquet we're planning a quinceañera. It is Hispanic tradition to celebrate a young girl's 15th birthday with a quinceañera. Likewise, we plan to celebrate 15 years of God's faithfulness to this ministry with a special party.

**Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by  
so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels  
without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2**

## Quinceañera Celebration

**15 YEARS**

# OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRY

You are cordially invited to attend  
our fifteenth anniversary dinner

**March 16, 2017  
6:00 pm**

**Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Building**

**Catered by a local Mexican Restaurant**

**Mariachi Band**

**Quinceañera Program with Ministry Highlights**

**Free-will offering to benefit OPEN ARMS**

**Open Arms  
Board of  
Directors:**  
Douglas Zehr  
Chad Lehman  
Ryan Troyer  
Karen Steiner  
Lidia Zehr  
**Board Advisory:**  
Thomas Dunn  
Michelle Steffen

**Coordinator:**  
Raul Tadeo

**Executive  
Director:**  
Haroldo Nunes

Please RSVP by March 9, 2017 Contact Karen Steiner  
330.682.2842 or [Steinco5@aol.com](mailto:Steinco5@aol.com)

## Why Do I Support Open Arms Hispanic Ministry?

I support the ministry of Open Arms for a variety of reasons, but one of the main reasons is that I heard crying in a church in Honduras. It was the first Christmas of our MCC term in Honduras. My wife Kathy and I were spending the holidays with MCC friends in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. We attended Christmas Eve services together with some neighborhood kids at the local Catholic Church.

It was an interesting service, meaningful and beautiful. At one point the priest was leading in prayer for those who were *afuera*. The church became very quiet and then I heard it... people near me crying. I looked around and everywhere I saw people crying, some weeping with arms around each other. Then I realized the *afuera* were those who were in the US. Those who had made the dangerous trip to the north. These around me were their mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters left behind. It was then I recognized the pain, the loss, the sacrifice in this thing we call immigration. It is not a trip of convenience by those seeking to take our way of life. It is a trip of desperation.

Although I knew this in my head, that night I gained a

new understanding and compassion for those who have come into our country as immigrants, by whatever means. Now when I meet our new neighbors from Honduras or Guatemala or Mexico in church or at the Thrift Shop in Kidron where I work, I often think of that night and wonder about the family they left behind. I try to treat them with respect, ask them personal questions in my failing Spanish and delight in the change when they sense I am to be trusted. I would love to spend more time with these brave folks. But right now I can't do that. So I am thrilled there is a local organization like Open Arms that does, that supports new arrivals and provides ongoing vital services to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

I support Open Arms because I heard crying in a church.



Virgil Troyer  
Feb 22, 2017

## Volunteer Opportunity

Would you be willing to share one hour of your week with a child? A Hispanic child in this community could be blessed by your willingness to read them a story, help them with math, or understand their homework assignments. The majority of these children speak English, but their parents may not and therefore cannot provide the support needed to excel in school.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry is starting a "Tío y Tía" (Uncle & Aunt) Program. By making a weekly home visit, the "Tío" or "Tía" can help a child and his parents to understand teachers' expectations, notes from

school and many cultural aspects that are difficult for immigrants to understand. Open Arms believes that now is a critical time to share God's love with a community that is experiencing a high degree of anxiety. Please give us a hand!

If you are interested to help in this program, please contact Haroldo Nunes at 330-933-9376, [haroldo\\_nunes@yahoo.com.br](mailto:haroldo_nunes@yahoo.com.br) or Doug Zehr at 217-714-5048, [dlzehr10@gmail.com](mailto:dlzehr10@gmail.com). Thanks.

## Fear in the Hispanic Community

The Hispanic community in our country is experiencing a high degree of anxiety and fear due to the executive orders recently signed to address immigration issues. Open Arms believes that now is a critical time to share God's love with our Hispanic brothers and sisters, giving the spiritual, moral and material support that is needed. Last Thursday I participated in a meeting at Goshen College with Hispanic students, the vice-president and several directors. It was a very sad time. The students expressed their own fear of deportation or how deportation could affect their parents and others without proper documents. They find it difficult to concentrate on studies or do anything with the pressure they are experiencing.

In our area, young adults and small children have the same fear.

With the changes made by the president, any minor offense, such as having a broken taillight, could send hard working, community leaders or our brothers and sisters in Christ, back to their countries where they were suffering violence of gangs, drug cartels, famine, etc. What should we do as Christians in this moment of challenge for the Hispanic community? As a pastor, I would like to hear your input.

Pastor Haroldo Nunes

*Haroldo Nunes*

